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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,435	09/16/2003	Yi Hsing Peng	AP3044-QUV1BA03	9833

7590

07/06/2004

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EXAMINER

RAMIREZ, RAMON O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3632

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/662,435

Applicant(s)

PENG, YI HSING

Examiner

RAMON O. RAMIREZ

Art Unit

3632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 June 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Pro-se guide</u> |

Detailed Action

This is the first Office Action corresponding to original filing. Claims 1 and 2 are present for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

- a) In the specification
 - i) on page 1, lines reference numeral 13 is used to identify both a rod and a spring, in lines 15 and 16, the sentence *When the retaining block 2 is coupled with the inserting rod 11* makes no sense ;
 - ii) on page 4, line 11, the sentence *When the retaining block 2 is coupled with the inserting rod 11* makes no sense; and
 - iii) on page 5, line 19, "extending block 132" apparently is - - retaining block 2 - -.
- b) In the drawings
 - i) Fig 1, reference 13 is labeling a rod, not a spring, also the rod 11 is not labeled; and
 - ii) Fig 2 should be bracketed as per Rule 1.84 (h)(1) (which is reproduced here as a courtesy to Applicant.

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(h)Views. The drawing must contain as many views as necessary to show the invention. The views may be plan, elevation, section, or perspective views. Detail views of portions of elements, on a larger scale if necessary, may also be used. All views of the drawing must be grouped together and arranged on the sheet(s) without wasting space, preferably in an upright position, clearly separated from one another, and must not be included in the sheets containing the specifications, claims, or abstract. Views must not be connected by projection lines and must not contain center lines. Waveforms of electrical signals may be connected by dashed lines to show the relative timing of the waveforms.

(1)Exploded views. Exploded views, with the separated parts embraced by a bracket, to show the relationship or order of assembly of various parts are permissible. When an exploded view is shown in a figure which is on the same sheet as another figure, the exploded view should be placed in brackets.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: none of the art of record discloses a cable retainer having the elements recited in claim 1 in particularly an annular sleeve comprising a guiding slot, engaging slots, and an annular limiting trench, and block cooperating with the annular sleeve.

Conclusion

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

The cited art of record to Wollar (4,842,237) and Benoit (US 2002/0179780 A1) show examples of cable retainers.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.


A pro-se guide is included to assist Applicant with his response.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RAMON O. RAMIREZ whose telephone number is (703) 308-0748. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-FRIDAY, IST FRIDAY OFF.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, LESLIE BRAUN can be reached on (703) 308-2156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


RAMON O. RAMIREZ
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3632

ROR
June 29, 2004

Attachment to Office Action: Information to Pro Se Inventors Regarding responses to Office Actions

INTRODUCTION

An examination of this application reveals that applicant may be unfamiliar with patent prosecuting procedure. While an inventor may prosecute the application, lack of skill in this field usually acts as a liability in affording the maximum protection for the invention disclosed.

Applicant is advised to secure the services of a registered patent attorney or agent to prosecute the application. The value of a patent is largely dependent upon skillful preparation and prosecution. Although the services of a registered patent attorney or agent is advised, the Office cannot aid in selecting an attorney or agent. 37 C.F.R. § 1.31; M.P.E.P. § 401. However, Applicant is encouraged to peruse the publication entitled "Attorneys and Agents Registered to Practice Before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office." This publication is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

DISCUSSION

The following discussion provides general information for Applicant's benefit regarding an applicant's response, new matter, the period for response, and the certificate of mailing.

I. Response by Applicant

The applicant **MUST** respond to every ground of rejection and objection made in an Office action. 37 C.F.R. § 1.111. The applicant will generally present arguments that the examiner's rejections or objections were made in error; or amend the specification, drawings,

and/or claims to overcome the rejection or objection. Amendments to the application may not introduce new matter. 37 C.F.R. § 1.118.

Unless the Office explicitly requests the return of a paper, all papers mailed to the applicant are intended to be kept by the applicant for his own records. **The response must be signed by ALL applicants.** 37 C.F.R. § 1.33. The response must be identified by the Serial Number of the Application, the Art Unit, and the name of the examiner. An example follows:

Appl. No. : XX/YYY,YYY
Applicant : James Q. Inventor
Filed: April 19, 2003
Title : Bucket with Handle
Art Unit: 3632
Examiner:: John Doe

A. Arguments

Should the applicant disagree with the examiner's position, the applicant should distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the examiner's action with arguments under the heading "Remarks" in the response. 37 C.F.R. § 1.111. In addition, the applicant must discuss the references cited by the examiner that explain how the claims avoid the references or patentably distinguish from them. *Id.*

B. Amendments to the Specification

An amendment to the specification may remove a rejection or objection. Any amendment to the specification must be presented as a list of additions and deletions, referring to the passages in question by page and line numbers. 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

An amendment to the specification should appear as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

I -In the construction of the bucket of this invention, various materials have been selected ~~and~~ which offer a number of diverse properties and allow for varied functions of the article. For caustic solutions, the bucket can be made of a durable ~~polymer~~ plastic material. Where an aesthetic appeal is desired, the bucket can be any ~~of~~ one of many attractive colors. The following listing of properties serves to define possible uses for the buckets.—

Please add the following new paragraph after the paragraph ending on line 20 of page 6:

-- An optional feature of the articles of the invention is the addition of a tetrafluoroethylene coating to the bucket to provide protection from any contents which might be caustic. The coating can be provided to the surface during the manufacturing process or can be added in a later step.--

C. Amendments to the Claims

An amendment to the claim may remove a rejection or objection. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (original): A bucket with a black handle.

Claim 6 (original): A bucket of claim 5 wherein the handle is metal.

Claim 7 (cancel)

Claim 8 (currently amended): A bucket made of ~~yellow~~ green plastic.

Claim 9 (previously amended): A bucket made of aluminum-coated galvanized metal.

Claim 10 (previously added): A bucket having a circumferential upper lip.

Claim 11 (new): A plastic bucket having a blue handle.

D. Drawing Corrections

Finally, correction of the drawings may remove a rejection or objection. Changes to the drawings are submitted as proposed drawing corrections and can be made only with permission of the Office. 37 C.F.R. § 1.123. Proposed drawing corrections should be filed with the response, but should be a separate paper. M.P.E.P. § 608.02(r). The proposed corrections should appear in red ink in the drawings. M.P.E.P. § 608.02(v).

II. New Matter

As previously mentioned, no amendment to the specification, claims, or drawings may introduce new matter. 37 C.F.R. § 1.118. "New matter" constitutes any material which meets the following criteria:

- (1) It is added to the disclosure (either the specification, the claims, or the drawings) after the filing date of the application, and
- (2) It contains new information which is neither included nor implied in the original version of the disclosure. This includes the addition of physical properties, new uses, etc.

See M.P.E.P. § 706.03(o). For example, in the amendment to the claim discussed above, the new limitation of "four legs" would not constitute new matter if the specification or drawings originally described the inclusion of four legs on the chair.

III. Period For Response

An Office action generally sets a time period in which the applicant has to respond to every rejection and objection (called a shortened statutory period). 37 C.F.R. § 1.134. This time period for response appears on the cover letter (form PTO-326) of the Office action. Usually, a 3 month shortened statutory period is set. M.P.E.P. § 710.02(b). The applicant's response must be

received within the time period listed on the cover letter, or the application will be held abandoned. 37 C.F.R. § 1.135.

Currently, the Office allows the time period for response to be extended past the shortened statutory period up to a maximum of 6 months (called the maximum 6 month statutory period). In order to extend the period of response past the shortened statutory period, a request for an extension of time and payment of the appropriate fee is required. 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The request must state that it is for "an extension of the period for response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)." The following table lists the required fees for extensions of the shortened statutory period:

Months Past Response Date	Fee Due (Small / Large Entity)
Response within Time Allowed	None / None
1	\$55 / \$110
2	\$210 / \$420
3	\$475 / \$950
4	\$740 / \$1,480
5	\$1,005 / \$2,010

It is important to note that no extension of time is permitted that extends the period for response past the maximum 6 month statutory period. Responses received after the maximum 6 month statutory period will be held abandoned. 37 C.F.R. § 1.135.

Three examples are provided:

Example 1:

A complete response is filed four months and one day after the mailing date of an Office action. The Office action sets a **3 month** shortened statutory period for response. The response

must be accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$210 (for a small entity); \$420 for a large entity) for a 2 month extension of time. The response must also contain a statement requesting "an extension of the period for response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)."

Example 2:

A complete response is filed five months and one day after the mailing date of an Office action. The Office action sets a **2 month** shortened statutory period for response. The response must be accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$740 (for a small entity); \$1,480 for a large entity) for a 4 month extension of time. The response must also contain a statement requesting "an extension of the period for response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)."

Example 3:

A complete response is filed six months and one day after the mailing date of an Office action. The Office action sets a **3 month** shortened statutory period for response. The response is held abandoned even if accompanied by a fee and a request for an extension of time. Remember, extensions of time may not be used to extend the period for response past the maximum 6 month statutory period. 37 C.F.R. § 1.135.

IV. Certificate of Mailing

To ensure that the Applicant's response is considered timely filed, it is advisable to include a "Certificate of Mailing" on at least one page of the response. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.8. This

"Certificate" should consist of the following statement:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States

Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Applicant signature

Date

CONCLUSION AND CAVEAT

The above discussion is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all the topics that may be relevant to this particular Application. The information was provided to familiarize Applicant with the portions of a response that have historically caused problems for *pro se* inventors.

Furthermore, even if Applicant's response is in accordance with the information provided above, there is no guarantee that every requirement of the patent laws (35 U.S.C. §§ 1-376), patent rules (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.1-150.6), and Patent Office policy (M.P.E.P. §§ 101-2591) has been met. The adequacy of a response is determined on a case-by-case basis. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 1.111;

M.P.E.P. § 714.02.